

Film Industry

Historical Sites

HISTORICAL MAP OF FORT LEE NEW JERSEY

Established 1904

Palisades Park

Leonia Heights

Englewood

Ridgefield

Grantwood

Englewood Cliffs

Fort Lee Residents:



JOHN BARRYMORE
ACTOR



EMIL COHL
FATHER OF ANIMATION



VIRGINIA PEARSON
ACTRESS



JOAN BENNETT
ACTRESS



RICHARD BENNETT
ACTOR



EDDIE MANNIX
VICE PRESIDENT OF M.G.M.



- Palisades Amusement Park** - Established in 1898 as a Sunday destination, the Park on the Palisades was purchased by Nicholas and Joseph Schenck, two brothers in the entertainment business who produced films in Fort Lee with stars such as Fatty Arbuckle. The park was used as a location for shoots.
- Fort Lee Ferry & Trolley Terminal** - Located at the bottom of Route 5, in Edgewater, the Palisades ferries and trolleys brought many actors and staff located in New York City to the various studios located in Fort Lee. The trolley stops were informally called out with the studio name.
- Trolley Loop** - This loop in the trolley road was made of stone with a massive curved wall and it served as a favorite location for many movies, as the wall stood in for a facade of a medieval castle. This location was used in such films as the 1913 Selznick production "Bremer of the Moor."
- Kalem Studios** - Next to Palisades Amusement Park in the Grantwood section of Cliffside Park, Kalem built an open-air studio and stage at 199 Palisades Ave. in 1913. By 1915, they built a proper studio facility. Some of their productions, "The Vampire" 1913, and "Cabaret Dancer" 1914, were shot here.
- Fort Lee Trolley Junction** - A trolley hub of Bergen County was the Palisades Junction. Here, the Hudson River line trolleys connected Palisades line trolleys. Public Service owned all the trolley lines and later on, used the same routes for buses.
- The Grant-Lee Theatre** - This theatre was a fixture at 815 Abbott Blvd. at the junction in the Palisades section of Fort Lee. In the early 1960s it was a playhouse and was the last cinema in Fort Lee when it closed in the 1980s under the name Sharon Cinema.
- The Richard Bennett House** - At 1074 Deerborn Road stands the house of famed Broadway and film actor, Richard Bennett and his wife and children, Barbara, Constance, and Joan. Bennett's daughters would go on to act in films shot in Fort Lee and Hollywood.
- E.K. Lincoln Studio** - Actor, E.K. Lincoln built this studio at 735 Bergen Blvd. in 1915. The studio was leased to Fox in 1916-17 and to other various studios in the 1920s. In 1931, it was outfitted for sound and was then leased to Bud Pollard in 1933.
- First Cable Studio** - This studio was located in the basement of Building #2 of the Horizon House and was the first cable station/studio in the area. The first broadcast was in 1973, and was available on two channels, A & B, for what was then the Vision Cable Co.
- Paragon Studio** - Film industry pioneer, Jules Brulatour incorporated Paragon on March 31, 1915 and built the studio on John Street in West Fort Lee. Film director, Maurice Tourneur was the creative partner of the studio. The Fort Lee Post Office used the building through 1970s until most of it was demolished.
- Cella's Park Hotel** - Peter Cella's Hotel on Center Ave. and Whiteman St. was a gathering place for many of the movie companies of Fort Lee. Scores of film events were held there, including the December 3rd, 1912 wedding of actor, King Baggot, the first "billed" movie star.
- The Fort Lee Museum** - Made of Palisades Blue Stone in 1922, this building at 1888 Palisades Ave. was designed by Jadge Moore to resemble the Church of the Good Shepherd. In 1990, it was turned into a museum, housing the Fort Lee Historical Society. The first office of the Fort Lee Film Commission was located here in 2001.